

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended in light of the remarks presented herein, is respectfully requested.

In the claims

Please cancel claims 31-51.

Please add new claims 52-68, as follows:

52. (New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein operatively linked to a promoter, said fusion protein comprising: 1) an immunoglobulin heavy chain or light chain; and 2) a polypeptide or portion thereof containing at least one epitope, said polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a mammalian antigenic polypeptide, an autoantigenic polypeptide and an antigenic polypeptide of an allergen comprising at least two epitopes.

53. (New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein operatively linked to a promoter, said fusion protein comprising: 1) an immunoglobulin heavy chain or light chain; and 2) a mammalian antigenic polypeptide or portion thereof containing at least one epitope.

54. (New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein operatively linked to a promoter, said fusion protein comprising: 1) an immunoglobulin heavy chain or light chain; and 2) an autoantigenic polypeptide or portion thereof containing at least one epitope.

55. (New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein operatively linked to a promoter, said fusion protein comprising: 1) an immunoglobulin heavy chain or light chain; and 2) an antigenic polypeptide, or portion thereof, of an allergen comprising at least two epitopes.

56. (New) The expression vector of any of claims 52-55, wherein said vector is a viral vector.

57. (New) The expression vector of claim 56, wherein said viral vector is selected from the group consisting of retroviral vector and baculovirus vector.

58. (New) The expression vector of any of claims 52-55, wherein there are two or more copies of the nucleic acid sequence encoding said fusion protein operatively linked to said promoter.

59. (New) The expression vector of any of claims 52-55, wherein the immunoglobulin is an IgG.

60. (New) The expression vector of any of claims 52-55 which comprises the identifying characteristics of ATCC No. 69555.

61. (New) The expression vector of any of claims 52-55, wherein said fusion protein comprises an N-terminal variable region of said heavy chain and has said polypeptide or portion thereof inserted adjacent to the first framework region of said N-terminal variable region.

62. (New) The expression vector of claim 52 or 54, wherein said autoantigenic polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of clotting factor VIII, acetylcholine receptors, collagen, myelin basic protein, thyroglobulin, and histocompatibility antigen.

63. (New) The expression vector of claim 52 or 55, wherein said antigenic polypeptide of an allergen is selected from the group consisting of a protein of pollen, a protein of ragweed and a protein of dust mite.

64. (New) The vector of claim 63, wherein the protein of ragweed is antigen E.

65. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for inducing tolerance to an antigen, said composition comprising a cell suitable for introduction into an individual and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein said cell contains a vector selected from the group consisting of the vectors of claims 52-55.

66. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 65, wherein the cell is syngeneic with the individual.

67. (New) A transformed hemopoietic or lymphoid cell comprising the expression vector of any of claims 52-55.

68. (New) The cell of claim 67 which is a bone marrow cell.

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 31-51 were pending in this Application. With this Amendment, claims 31-51 have been cancelled, and new claims 52-68 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this amendment, claims 52-68 are pending. Support for new claims 52-55 is found throughout the specification, on page 6, lines 26-28; on page 8, lines 8-10; page 11, lines 3-7; in original claim 1, and in pending claim 31. Support for new claims 56-58 is found throughout the specification, for example on page 16, lines 18-22; page 17, lines 4-6; Example 4; in original claim 1, and in pending claims 41 & 47. Support for new claim 59 is found throughout the specification and in pending claim 37. Support for new claim 60 is found